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CLAIMS

Claims 1-20, 22, 25, 28, and 29 have been cancelled.

21.   (Amended – Claim 24) A method for managing health care-related information about a patient as electronic records over a communications network comprising:

electronically handling the records as a plurality of component fields maintained in a database of a health care organization, each component field associated with a particular type of data associated with the patient;

storing determining access rules determined by the patient in a computer, the access rules based at least in part on a role of a person desiring access, to selectively govern access to the component fields by both health care providers and non health care providers, the access rules determined by the patient;

applying the access rules before the component fields are accessed;

providing to a first group of individuals access based on the access rules to a first predetermined group of the component fields of the records when a first access parameter is present, the first access parameter relating to desired access by thea first group of individuals, the first group of individuals including a first health care provider having a first role, the providing access based on the access rules to the first predetermined group of the component fields including providing access to the first group of individuals, the first predetermined group of the component fields relating to a first medical condition of the patient;

providing to a second group of individuals access based on the access rules to a second predetermined group of the component fields of the records when a second access parameter different from the first access parameter is present, the second predetermined group of the component fields not identical to the first predetermined group of the component fields, the second access parameter relating to desired access by thea second group of individuals not identical to the first group of individuals, the second group of individuals including a second health care provider having a second role not identical to the first role, the providing access based on the access rules to the second predetermined group of the component fields including providing

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access to the second group of individuals, the second predetermined group of the component fields relating to a second medical condition of the patient; and

completely denying to the second group of individuals access to at least a portion of the first predetermined group of the component fields of the records when the second access parameter is present, wherein the first predetermined group of the component fields is not all of the component fields and the second predetermined group of the component fields is not all of the component fields.

23.   (Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the determining access rules includes considering a role of a person desiring access, the method further comprising evaluating a login identifier associated with the person, the login identifier associated with the role of the person.

24.   (Cancelled) The method of Claim 21 wherein:

the determining access rules includes considering a role of a person desiring access;

the first group of individuals includes a first health care provider having a first role;

the second group of individuals includes a second health care provider having a second role not identical to the first role;

the first predetermined group of the component fields is not all of the component fields and the second predetermined group of the component fields is not all of the component fields; and

the first predetermined group of the component fields is not identical to the second predetermined group of the component fields.

27.   (Cancelled) The method of Claim 21 wherein:

the second group of individuals includes a personal relation who is not a medical care provider of the patient; and

· the second predetermined group of the component fields is a fraction of all of the component fields.

28.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 21 wherein:

the second predetermined group of component fields is indicative of good health of the patient; and

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the first predetermined group of component fields is indicative of bad health of the patient.

30.   (Amended) _The method of Claim 21 further comprising~~wherein the determining access~~ ~~rules~~ includes:

associating with one of the component fields permitted transactions selected from the group consisting of create, display, modify, and transmit, or any combination thereof;

associating with the one component field unpermitted transactions selected from the group consisting of create, display, modify, and transmit, or any combination thereof; and

restricting manipulation of the one component field to only the permitted transactions.

31.   (Unchanged) _The method of Claim 21 further comprising:

selectively organizing the records or component fields thereof according to selectable parameters based at least in portion upon the particular types of patient data; and

compiling the organized records or component fields thereof into an electronic file history that is storable in the electronic database for later access.

32.   (Amended) _The method of Claim 21 wherein the first group ~~of individuals includes health~~ care providers ~~and~~ the second group of individuals includes at least one health care providers ~~not~~ also included in the first group of individuals.

33.   (Cancelled) _A method ~~for handling health care related records of a~~ patient comprising:

~~enabling an electronic database to store the records;~~

~~defining a threshold event~~ relating to ~~both medical and nonmedical data about~~ the patient, the ~~threshold event defined by the patient;~~

~~programming the database or an associated computer with the threshold event;~~

~~analyzing the records stored in the database to determine if the threshold event has~~ ~~occurred; and~~

~~using the database or the associated computer to automatically provide an electronic~~ ~~notification, that is not an offer to have medical~~ services performed, to a ~~non health care provider~~ ~~selected by the patient upon occurrence of the threshold~~ event as defined by ~~the patient.~~

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34.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 33 wherein the records contain information received from various communications devices coupled to the database or~~ the associated computer.

35.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 33 wherein the threshold event relates~~ to monetary ~~amounts owed by the patient to a health care provider and wherein the electronic notification includes a request to make payments to the health care provider after services are performed.~~

36.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 35 wherein the interested entity is the patient.~~

37.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 33 wherein:~~

~~the threshold event relates to receipt by the database of an anticipated record;~~

~~the interested entity is a personal relation of the patient; and~~

~~the electronic notification includes at least a portion of the record.~~

38.   (Amended – Claim 44) A method for managing health care-related information about a patient as electronic records over a communications network comprising:

electronically handling the records as a plurality of component fields maintained in a database of a health care organization, each component field associated with a particular type of patient data associated with the patient;

~~storing~~ determining access rules determined at least in part by the patient in a computer to selectively govern access to the component fields, ~~the access rules determined at least in part by the patient~~;

applying the access rules before the component fields are accessed;

providing based on the access rules for a first group of individuals access to a first set of component fields of the records when a first access parameter is present, the first access parameter relating to desired access by the first group of individuals, the first set of component fields relating to medical health ~~a first condition~~ of the patient, the first group of individuals including health care providers;

providing based on the access rules for a second group of individuals not identical to the first group of individuals access to a second set of component fields of the records when a second access parameter not identical to the first access parameter is present, the second set of component fields not identical to the first set of component fields, the second access parameter

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relating to desired access by the second group of individuals, the second set of component fields

relating to a ~~criterion about monetary amounts owed by second condition of~~ the patient, the

~~second group of individuals including billing or accounting personnel~~; and

      denying to the second group of individuals access to at least a portion of the first set of

component fields of the records.

39.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 38 wherein the second condition relates to non-medical information about the patient.~~

40.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 38 wherein the second group of individuals includes billing or accounting personnel and wherein the second set of component fields relates to financial information about the patient.~~

41.   (Amended) The method of Claim 38~~40~~ ~~wherein the first set of component fields includes information about medical~~ health of the patient, ~~the method~~ further comprising denying the billing

or accounting personnel access to any portion of the first set of component fields.

42.   (Cancelled) ~~The method~~ of Claim 38 wherein:

      the first set ~~of component fields satisfies a first criterion~~ about monetary ~~amounts owed by the patient; and~~

      the second ~~set of component fields satisfies~~ a second ~~criterion about monetary~~ amounts ~~owed by the patient.~~

43.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 42 wherein:~~

      ~~the first group of individuals includes billing or accounting personnel; and~~

      ~~the second group of individuals includes personal relations~~ of the patient.

44.   (Cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 38 wherein:~~

      the first set ~~of component fields satisfies a first~~ criterion ~~about monetary amounts~~ owed

~~by the patient;~~

      ~~the second set of component fields relates to medical health of the patient.~~

      ~~the first group of individuals includes billing~~ or accounting ~~personnel; and~~

      ~~the second group of individuals includes health care~~ providers.

45.   (New) The method of Claim 21 wherein:

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the first medical condition concerns a first illness suffered by the patient; and

the second medical condidtion concerns a second illness suffered by the patient.

46.   (New) The method of Claim 45 wherein the first illness and the second illness are not medically related.

47.   (New) The method of Claim 21 wherein the computer includes the database.

48.   (New) The method of Claim 47 wherein the computer is a server.

49.   (New) The method of Claim 48 further comprising:

storing a threshold event relating to data about the patient, the threshold event defined by the patient;

analyzing the records to determine if the threshold event has occurred; and

sending an electronic notification to an entity selected by the patient upon occurrence of the threshold event.

50.   (New) The method of Claim 21 wherein the computer includes the database and the access rules are stored in the database.

51.   (New – Claims 21, 27) A method for managing health care-related information about a patient as electronic records over a communications network comprising:

electronically handling the records as a plurality of component fields maintained in a database of a health care organization, each component field associated with a particular type of data associated with the patient;

storing access rules determined by the patient in a computer to selectively govern access to the component fields by both health care providers and non health care providers;

applying the access rules before the component fields are accessed;

providing to a first group of individuals access based on the access rules to a first predetermined group of the component fields of the records when a first access parameter is present, the first access parameter relating to desired access by the first group of individuals, the first predetermined group of the component fields relating to a first medical condition of the patient;

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providing to a second group of individuals, including a personal relation who is not a

medical care provider of the patient, access based on the access rules to a second

predetermined group of the component fields of the records when a second access parameter

different from the first access parameter is present, the second predetermined group of the

component fields not identical to the first predetermined group of the component fields, the

second access parameter relating to desired access by the second group of individuals not

identical to the first group of individuals, the second predetermined group of the component fields

relating to a second medical condition of the patient and constituting a fraction of all of the

component fields; and

completely denying to the second group of individuals access to at least a portion of the

first predetermined group of the component fields of the records.

52.   (New) The method of Claim 51 further comprising:

associating with one of the component fields permitted transactions selected from the

group consisting of create, display, modify, and transmit, or any combination thereof;

associating with the one component field unpermitted transactions selected from the

group consisting of create, display, modify, and transmit, or any combination thereof; and

restricting manipulation of the one component field to only the permitted transactions.

53.   (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the computer includes the database.

54.   (New) The method of Claim 38 further comprising denying to the first group of individuals

access to at least a portion of the second set of component fields of the records.

55.   (New) The method of Claim 38 wherein the first group of individuals or the second group

of individuals includes a personal relation of the patient, the personal relation of the patient not

necessarily a billing or accounting personnel or a health care provider.

56.   (New) The method of Claim 38 wherein the computer includes the database.

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